

for those fighting cancer, Alzheimer's, and other debilitating diseases, bringing us closer to the promise of better treatments and cures for the afflicted and hope to those who love and care for them.

The 21st Century Cures Act also provides tens of billions of dollars more in research funds to accelerate promising cancer research in our Nation's leading cancer centers, including Buffalo's Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Adoption Month, which is observed each November.

The goal of National Adoption Month is to increase national awareness of adoption and to bring attention to the need for permanent families for children and youth in the foster care system. As of September 30 of last year, there were more than 110,000 children across our Nation waiting to be adopted.

This year, the initiative focuses on older youth adoptions, which has a special significance to me. When I was 11 years old, my family welcomed a foster care child, Bob, into our home. Bob, throughout the years, has been a part of my life since I was 11 and will be my brother for life. In fact, it is because of Bob that I developed a lifelong passion for scouting and was eventually motivated to a call to public service.

I commend the men and women across our Nation who have selflessly decided to open their homes to these boys and girls, providing good homes at a very challenging time for these young people.

To all the parents who have either adopted a child or participated in foster care: Thank you.

HATE CRIMES

(Ms. GRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak out against hate. Across our country, incidents of hate crimes and harassment are on the rise.

Just this last week, the trend reared its ugly head in my hometown of Tallahassee. A community office was vandalized with the letters KKK painted across the door.

With the rise in hate, we have also seen an increase in indifference. Too many are turning a blind eye. But there can be no tolerance for racism, bigotry or anti-Semitism in the United States of America.

The opposite of love is not hate. It is indifference. I won't be indifferent. I won't be silent. I am asking each of you to speak out against acts of hate

wherever you see them. We cannot be bullied or intimidated. We must fight back. Together, we are stronger than any hatred.

HELPING DISABLED VETERANS

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the unanimous passage last night of the Veterans Mobility Safety Act.

With this commonsense bill on its way to the President's desk, we are making sure the mobility equipment veterans depend on is safe. The VA helps disabled veterans update their vehicles with things like wheelchair lifts and easier steering and braking to improve their quality of life. But outdated policies and lack of standards in the program have led to safety issues for veterans and the driving public.

With my bill, the VA will develop new policies and standards to ensure veterans have access to safe, high-quality mobility equipment.

I thank Chairman MILLER for his tireless work on veterans' issues, as well as my colleagues, Representatives BROWNLEY and RUIZ, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association for their work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to our disabled veterans, and that includes making sure the mobility equipment they need is safe and reliable. With this bill, we are doing just that.

FIDEL CASTRO'S DEATH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the announcement of Fidel Castro's death, some world leaders and some in the media were quick to express their sorrow and sympathy for Castro.

They fawned over a dictator, as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau claimed he was "a legendary revolutionary and orator."

It is precisely this ignorance of Castro's true nature that is so alarming. Fidel Castro was a ruthless tyrant who ruled with an iron fist. Castro was responsible for the deaths of countless Cubans, and he beat, jailed, and even tortured his opposition.

Castro was a despot who confiscated private property and businesses. He subjugated Cuban citizens, and he took away all their freedoms and their rights.

Fidel Castro was an avowed enemy of the United States. This is a thug who should be condemned and not eulogized.

REMEMBERING REGIS BOBONIS OF SEWICKLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember an outstanding member of the Sewickley, Pennsylvania, community: the late Regis Bobonis, who passed away this past November 25.

This great American was a man of many firsts. He was the first African American news reporter for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the first African American television news reporter in Pittsburgh. Following his career in communications, he served as the public relations director for Mercy Hospital for 25 years.

Prior to these achievements, Regis Bobonis served as a Petty Officer 3rd Class during World War II, and he was a committed husband, father, and grandfather. He and his late wife, Hurley Williams, remained married for 53 years before her passing.

Through his work for the Daniel B. Matthews Historical Society in Sewickley, Mr. Bobonis discovered there were more Tuskegee Airmen from western Pennsylvania than any other State in the Nation. His discovery led him to spearhead the campaign that resulted in the largest outdoor memorial to the Tuskegee Airmen, which is in Sewickley Cemetery, pictured to my left.

Mr. Bobonis' sterling example and lasting contributions to our community will not be forgotten. May his family be consoled, and may he rest in peace.

BRIDGES TO HOPE

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I believe the number one way to move people from poverty to self-reliance is not a government program. If we want to make a difference in the lives of the impoverished, we must help them find a pathway to employment.

In my hometown of Hot Springs, Arkansas, a nonprofit has taken this mission to heart. Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic works with disadvantaged residents to give them skills that will give them a step up in the workforce. The ministry's program, Bridges to Hope, has worked with local employers in Hot Springs to put its graduates to work, and it is seeing great success. According to a report by the local Sentinel-Record newspaper, Oaklawn Race Track has employed four graduates, all of whom have had a 100 percent success rate, according to Oaklawn General Manager Eric Jackson.

The first Bridges to Hope class graduated only 90 days ago, but its success is already resounding as residents in